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**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD**



Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1958

Medical Officer of Health :

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Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics
(Local Health Authority).

Tel. No. Ashton-in-Makerfield, 7245.

Public Health Inspectors :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. BRIAN B. MORGANS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1958

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your consideration, the eighty-third Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District For the year 1958.

Introduction

The District is bounded on the south and west by Haydock Urban District Council, on the north-west by Billinge Urban District, on the north by Wigan County Borough and on the east by Abram and Golborne Urban Districts.

The geology of the district reveals coal and Bunter sandstone. The surface slopes in gentle undulation from north-west to south-east. Small areas of parkland diversify the landscape.

The main problems to be dealt with in the district are :—

1. Reconstruction of the sewage works and the conversions from pail closets to the water-carriage system.
2. The control of the local water gathering area to prevent contamination of supply.
3. The construction of new houses to enable the scheme of Clearance Areas to be dealt with.

Deep mining has declined considerably but some open-cast mining continues.

Natural and Social Conditions.

The acreage is approximately 6,265, with an estimated population of 19,230, giving a population density of 3.08 persons per acre—the administrative county as a whole having a density of approximately 2 persons per acre. The population at the Census of 1951 was 19,053. The rateable value of property in the Urban District is £144,745 and a penny rate yields £620.

The population is engaged in deep and open-cast mining to a diminishing extent. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon manufacture and iron foundry supply work for the population. Many find work outside the district and good communications and transport are available. The Ashton Woollen and Linen Charity dating back to the seventeenth century gives assistance to the needy and aged.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation and from local sources by surface drainage; sources of contamination are being eliminated.

Raw Water	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Examination—		
98 Samples showed	9	89
Chemical Examination—		
71 Samples showed	15	56
Water going into supply after Treatment		
Bacteriological Examination—		
90 Samples showed	84	6
Chemical Examination—		
65 Samples showed	41	24

There is a direct supply to 6,049 houses including 147 new houses. The daily consumption of water is approximately twenty-four gallons per head.

The disposal of sewage is by sedimentation and filtration and also by pail closets. 4,810 houses are on the water-carriage system and 1,368 houses have pail closets. During the year under review, 333 pail closets were converted to the water-carriage system. Pail closets are emptied by a gully emptier of 600 gallons capacity.

There are 4,785 dustbins in use and 1,797 dry ashpits. Disposal of refuse is by semi-controlled tipping and filling up of old pit shafts.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Male	Female
Total	170	122
Legitimate	165	120
Illegitimate	5	2
Still Births		
Total	3	1
Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Total	4	5
Legitimate	4	5
Illegitimate	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

Total	3	4
Legitimate	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)—	
Crude rate	13.1
Adjusted rate	15.5
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.05
Malignant neoplasms etc.	1.98

Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate	15.2
Adjusted rate	14.7
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	13.5
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births ...	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	30.8
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	24.0

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIONS DISEASE 1958 Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year

Notifiable Diseases	Total Deaths	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											
			AGE PERIOD — YEARS										25 and over	Age un-known
			0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	45—	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	11	—	—	1	—	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis—														
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding Rubella) ...	—	128	3	7	18	13	16	71	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)														
Smallpox ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	0—	5—	15—	45—	65 & over	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis														
Respiratory ...	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Meninges & C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other notifiable diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Immunisation against polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and smallpox is given regularly at the Infant Welfare Centre, Queen's Avenue, under Divisional Health arrangements. The Ambulance Service, the Home Help Service and the Ante-natal Services are all administered by the Divisional Health (No. 8) Office.

I take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Department for the great help in the daily work and also the members of the Council for their interest and support.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1958.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Particular attention has been given to certain routine duties of the department in an effort to improve the sanitary conditions of the district. Items of special note are dealt with in the appropriate sections of the report but I feel I should make mention at this stage of my pleasure that schemes for the abolition of pail closets are at long last in operation. I hope this work will continue with at least the same speed as at present so that in three or four years time there will be no pail closets left.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,294
Nuisance discovered	1,422
Nuisances abated	1,120
Re-visits re nuisances	1,147
Visits re infectious disease	21
Re-visits re infectious disease	26
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale ...	342
Visits to factories	182
Visits to dairies	30
Visits re licensing and registration Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949	92
Visits to shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	315
Notices served (Preliminary)	237
Notices served (Statutory)	70
Notices served Compulsory Conversions	236
Legal proceedings	4
Letters sent	954
Court abatement Orders made	4

Description of Nuisances Dealt With.

Defective and damp walls	149
„ roofs	156
„ eaves gutters and spouts	174
„ floors	4
„ sinks	7
„ wastepipes	21
„ plasterwork	243
„ windows and doors	254
„ staircases	14
„ paving in yards and passages	33
„ chimneys and stacks	18
„ setting around gulleys	9
„ firegrates	39
„ washing boilers	13
„ W.C. cisterns	29
„ W.C. basins	9
„ W.C. supply pipes	63
„ closets (roofs, floors, walls, doors and seats)	58
„ ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls)	20
„ pail places and doors	7
Overcrowding	12
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	6
Accumulation of refuse	4
Choked and defective drains	54
Ventilating shafts	8
Insufficient light and ventilation	1
Miscellaneous	17

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

The rehousing of the remaining twenty-eight families from the four confirmed Clearance Areas continued as houses were completed on the Low Bank Road Estate. The last family was rehoused on the 9th August, 1958 and I am pleased to state that with the exception of six houses all were demolished by September. The six referred to were demolished in November and the sites cleared.

Twenty families were rehoused from Individual Unfit Houses, four of these being houses dealt with in 1957. At the end of 1958, eleven families living in houses subject to Demolition Orders, required rehousing.

Owing to the cessation of building it became more difficult to deal with houses that came within the category to be dealt with under the provisions of Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957. Tenants complain quite justifiably of the conditions under which they live but when inspections are made I realize that the only satisfactory method of dealing

with the problem is to have the properties demolished. It has been considered necessary by the Council, when such cases have been submitted, to defer same owing to the lack of houses. These remarks also apply to the houses in proposed Clearance Areas.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government agreed in February that submission of the Clearance Orders in respect of ninety-four houses should be deferred until the Council re-commenced building and by the end of the year this stage had not yet been reached.

Twelve bungalows were completed and allocated on the Low Bank Road Estate and a survey was carried out of Old Age Pensioners living in Council Houses, to ascertain whether or not they wished to transfer to bungalows when more were built.

The ordinary families living in lodgings have to be content to await re-lets of vacant Council houses and many are greatly concerned that their chances of obtaining a house are almost nil.

Housing Statistics

Number of houses erected during year :-

	Houses	Flats	Bungalows	Shops
(a) (i) By local authority	42	Nil	12	Nil
(ii) By other authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	15	Nil	78	Nil
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts :-				Houses
(i) By the local authority (included under (a)				
(i) above)				54
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a)				
(iii) above)				Nil
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year- —				
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...				366
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose				1,118
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit.				
(a) Number found during year (Reports submitted to Council during year).				20
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year (not reported to Council)				18

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :—	
(a) Unfit houses	81
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced	72

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

	Persons Houses Displaced	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished or closed during year :—		
(a) Housing Act, 1957		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 17)	34	59
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sec. 17 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957 Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 16 (4), 17(1), 35(1)	1	4
(c) Housing Act, 1957 Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 17 (3) and 26	Nil	Nil
(d) Housing Act, 1957 Parts of buildings closed (Sec. 18)	Nil	Nil
(2) Repairs during the year :—	Houses	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.	121	
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—houses in which defects were remedied		
(i) By owners	79	
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil	
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice, (Sections 9, and 16) Houses made fit :		
(i) By owners	Nil	
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil	
(d) Under Section 24—Housing Act, 1957		

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation	Nil
(a) Under Section 48	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation (Section 34 or 53)	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1957—Improvement Grants, etc :—

Action during year :

	Private bodies or Individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority ...	3	3	Nil	Nil
(b) Approved by local authority	3	3	Nil	Nil
(c) Submitted by local authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	3	3	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(g) Any other action taken under the Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1957

During the year, thirty-five applications were made for Certificates of disrepair. The Council authorised that notice of intention (Form J) should be issued in thirty instances. Of these, the inspection of the premises showed that in five cases all defects, included by the tenants on Form G, should be retained but in twenty-five cases only part of the defects were warranted.

Landlords gave undertakings (Form K) in ten instances within the prescribed period and certificates were issued in connection with the remaining twenty houses. Landlords made application for cancellation (Form M) in six cases, four were granted, the tenants not objecting to cancellation and two were granted after the tenants' objections were not upheld.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Three applications were received from licensed slaughtermen and in each case the application was granted.

A report was submitted in May on the practicability of a slaughter-house being provided but the cost of same was found to be prohibitive.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Work was continued in this field and it was necessary to report some matters to the Sanitary and Health Committee. These concerned the provision of wash-hand basins but after consideration the members felt that the problems could be solved better by the staff of the department employing persuasion rather than by legal action. This action was taken and the facilities provided, but much time has to be spent in dealing with such cases.

Routine visits to all food premises continued and improvement of premises is proceeding, though rather slower than during previous years. Owing to pressure of other duties it has not been possible to concentrate on this work as much as I consider necessary but in a district such as Ashton, with its many problems, a correct balance must be maintained.

The following table gives the number and type of food premises in the district.

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	106
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc)	14
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc)	18
Bakers and/or confectioners	21
Fried Fish shops	24
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	75
Other	6

The next table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Section 115 and 116.

Type of Business	No.
Sale of Ice-Cream	53
Manufacture of Cooked Meat and Sausage	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	5
Storage of fish sold from vehicles	4
Storage of Fruit and Vegetables sold from vehicles	8

Food Condensed

28 tins stewed steak	5 tins milk
55½ lbs. corned beef	13 tins peas
57 lbs. tongue	13 tins beans
21 tins ham	28 tins fruit
1 tin chicken	15 tins tomatoes
3 tins pork lunchcon meat	2 tins syrup
1 pkt. fruit pudding	3 lbs. bacon
83 lbs. beef	1¼ lbs. cheese

Milk and Dairies

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The number of registered distributors is as follows :—

(1) Dairies in district	6
(2) Shops in district	52
(3) Premises outside district	Nil

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealers' Licences — Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
--	---

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Retail Distributors :—

Pasteurised	11
Sterilised	60

One-hundred and fifteen visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is sold, in addition to farms, etc., in connection with milk sampling, the particulars of which are as follows :—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	17
Negative	17
Positive	Nil
No result	Nil
Phosphatase Test	9
Satisfactory	9
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylcne Blue Test	10

Satisfactory	10
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	5
Satisfactory	5
Unsatisfactory	Nil

For the second year in succession no positive results were received in connection with the samples taken for the Biological Test. This indicates, in my opinion that the farmer has, over the past few years, improved his stock and is not content to have the poorer class of beast on his farm.

Representations were made to the Ministers of Health and of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food urging them to make an Order under Section 41 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, to apply Section 37 of the Act to this Council's area. The Order which came into operation on the 1st October, 1958, specified that all milk sold by retail in the district must be "specially designated". I am satisfied that the result of this has been to safeguard the public against consuming milk which may have been a danger to health.

Ice-Cream

Eighty-eight samples of Ice-Cream were taken, the result being as follows:—

		Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade 1	62	57	5
Provisional Grade 2	21	20	1
Provisional Grade 3	5	5	Nil
Provisional Grade 4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Void Samples	Nil	Nil	Nil

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Only one shop is licensed under the provisions of this Act.

The occupier is fully conversant with the requirements of the Act and no infringements have been observed.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts

The number of applications for petroleum storage licences was 47, the fees received were £33/0/0.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Five Bedford refuse collection vehicles of seven cubic yard capacity are engaged in the collection of household and trade refuse. A weekly

collection from domestic premises has been maintained and generally the collection service has been adequate. I regret to state that the disposal of same cannot be regarded as satisfactory but I hope this problem will be solved in the very near future.

Notices were served in seven instances on the owners of properties to provide dustbins, under the provisions of Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936. Six bins were provided by the owners and one in default by the Local Authority, the cost of same being recovered from the owner.

In May the consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was received for the borrowing of the sum of £5,119 for the conversion of 301 pail closets to the water carriage system. In July the Council agreed that another scheme should be commenced and a survey of the district was made to check the available sewers for a further 300 pail closet conversions. This work was carried out and the estimate of £10,016/10/0 arrived at as the cost of converting 305 pail closets. Application was made to the Ministry to borrow £5,031 for the purpose of carrying out these conversions.

I am most pleased with this progress and hope that this rate will be maintained until no pail closets remain. I realize that problems will arise in the future regarding the availability of sewers etc., but I urge the Council to make provision for all areas of the district to be adequately sewered to enable this work to proceed without delay.

Considerable time was spent in one small part of the Garswood area in tracing the drains from about twenty properties not connected to the main sewer system. It was estimated that it would cost £5,400 to provide the necessary facilities. The matter was reluctantly deferred for financial reasons, but I hope that this and similar schemes, will receive priority in the near future.

A total of 333 pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year, this being the highest number in any year since records were kept.

I am also pleased to report that at last a real effort seems to be being made to have the school closets brought up to the required standard.

The following table gives the number and type of closet accommodation in the district together with other details.

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C's. provided	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
56	333	109	103	76

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1957 (approximately)		1,757
Less number converted	333	
Less number demolished	56	389
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total number of pail closets at end of 1958		1,368
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Number of Water Closets at end of 1957 (approximately)		4,949
Number of conversions (including troughs)	348	
Number of fresh water closets at new houses	147	
Number of extra water closets erected	10	
Number of water closets demolished	48	457
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Number of water closets at end of 1958		5,406
Number of waste closets included above,		16

Ashpit Accommodation

Number of dry ashpits at end of 1957 (approximately)	1,900
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1958	103
	<hr/>
	1,797
	<hr/>
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1957 (approximately) ...	4,562
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1958	76
Number of new houses	147
Extra bins provided	36
	<hr/>
	4,821
	<hr/>
Number of bins at properties demolished	36
	<hr/>
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1958	4,785
	<hr/>

Salvage of Waste Paper

The collection of waste paper was continued throughout the year.

The income and weight was as follows:—

£1,539/12/11 from 202 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr.

Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register : 118

		Inspec- tions	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	94	107	1
Without Mechanical Power	22	66	Nil
Other Premises (Not outworkers)	6	9	Nil
Outworkers	8	8	Nil
Total ...	130	190	1

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation	5	5
Other Offences	3	3
	8	8

Registered Premises

Bakers and Confectioners	22
Plumbers and Painters	10
Joiners and Builders	11
Shoeing smiths	1
Wheelwrights	1
Saddlers	1
Motor and cycle repairers	19
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	1
Printers	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	1
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice-Cream manufacturers	2
Sausage makers	10
Wholesale chemist	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe and clog repairers	8
Gas holders	1
Electricians	1
Sawmills	3
Contractors	1
Air compressors, etc.	1
Monumental Masons	1
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Metal Turners	1
Cinemas	2
Food Preparation	1
Demilition contractors	1
Cattle food preparation	1
General Engineering	6

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Section 110

There are eight outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business outside this area.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	1

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No premises are licensed or registered, but nine inspections have been made at upholsterers' and cabinet makers' works.

Smoke Abatement

The remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 came into operation on the 1st June, 1958. They specify the time limit for emission of black smoke and supersede the Order made by the Council in July, 1923. The draft bye-laws as agreed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government were formally adopted and came into operation on the 1st August, 1958.

Consultations with the managers of the various factories have been held and seventeen observations of factory chimneys have been made but no infringement of the Act was observed.

Continual supervision of the spoilbanks has been maintained and certain spasmodic outbreaks of fire on disused spoilbanks have been dealt with as required. The modern methods of consolidation of new deposits of colliery waste on the other spoilbanks appear to have prevented combustion but nevertheless it is a duty that cannot be neglected if the nuisances of previous years are to be prevented.

Moveable Dwellings and Caravan Sites

Planning application was received from the owners of land at Carr Mill to use two pieces of land as caravan sites. The plan was refused and the owners appealed against the decision. The appeal was heard on the 27th March but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government disallowed same.

During the year other applications have been made and refused and there has also been a greater number of caravans occupied by Romanies entering the district. These persons cause a great deal of trouble to us and on occasions are very awkward to deal with. They have a ready reply to any question and are never at a loss to find an excuse to stay an extra few days. In this connection I must express my appreciation to the members of the Lancashire Constabulary who are most co-operative on these occasions.

Infectious Disease

All cases of notified infectious disease have been investigated and records made.

The full table of cases is included in Dr. Fulton's report.

Disinfestation

Treatment of all infested domestic property was continued, the number of houses and type of infestations being as follows :—

Council Houses 17; Other Houses 69.

The houses were treated for the following infestations :—

Cockroaches 49; Ants 26;
Bugs 6; Crickets 1;
Earwigs 1; Precautionary Treatments 3.

Rodent Control

Work has continued in connection with the control and extermination of rats and mice throughout the year as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. On the 1st July, 1958 the Ministry's Rodent Control Organisation was integrated with the regional and divisional organisation of the department.

The 10% test and two sewer treatments were carried out, the "Extended Baiting" method being continued with success.

The details of other treatments, class of infestation and inspections are as follows :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY					TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)		
1. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1957 as a result (a) of Notification (b) Otherwise	(a)	Nil	55	Nil	24	79
	(b)	30	678	33	147	909
2. Number of properties (under 1) found to be infested by rats.	Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor	15	127	Nil	7	149
3. Number of properties (under 1) found to be seriously infested by mice.		Nil	32	Nil	14	46
4. Number of infested properties (under 2 & 3) treated by the Local Authority.		15	159	Nil	21	195

Public Conveniences

The high standard of cleanliness and conscientious supervision set by the public convenience attendants was again maintained during the year. Damage to locks, doors and other fixtures continued and in one instance the juveniles responsible were prosecuted by the police.

Problem Families

I must report again on the considerable amount of time spent in dealing with problem families. Numerous visits have been paid to certain families in an effort to educate the parents and to bring increased happiness to the children. The work is most arduous and in many cases frustrating, but patience must be exercised in dealing with persons whose outlook on life is not that of the normal individual.

The Quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee of Officers held at Ince Clinic, convened by Dr. G. H. Potter, were attended by me and the families residing in the district were considered. Much valuable help is given by the other officers engaged in this work and I am most grateful for their co-operation.

Food and Drugs Acts

The action taken by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department is as follows :—

A total of ninety-two samples was obtained, consisting of fifty-one samples of milk (two of which were a Channel Islands milk) and forty-one others, comprising :—

4 Pork sausage	3 Sterilised cream
4 Cocoa	2 Flour
1 Drinking chocolate	2 Christmas pudding
5 Camphorated oil	4 Dried fruit
2 Olive Oil	2 Beef sausage
4 Salt	1 Gravy browning
2 White pepper	1 Suet
1 Cornflour	3 Margarine

The samples were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis and, with the exception of those detailed below, were reported to be genuine :—

Type	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Milk	Contained a small flower-head.	Dairy cautioned.
Flour	Contained only 127 mgms. Creta praeparata per 100 gms. flour. Flour (Composition) Regulations 1956, require 235-390 mgms. per 100gms. flour.	Millers communicated with.
Christmas Pudding	Pudding contained only 7.8% fat Should contain at least 9%	Manufacturers communicated with.

In conclusion I wish to thank the staff of the Public Health Department, and all other officials of the Town Hail, together with the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Health Committee for the co-operation given to be during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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